

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0341

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 8783

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: TWO SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR ECONOMIC CRIMES

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCED JULY 23 THAT ABETOHUN YIGZAW OF THE MINCOMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND ALEMU BAKAWO, A MERCHANT, HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR "ECONOMIC CRIMES."

2. TWO OTHER MERCHANTS, BAYU ASMARA AND GETANEH, WERE SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT FOR LESSER CRIMES.

3. THE SENTENCES WERE PASSED BY THE "FIRS BENCH OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL COURT MARTIAL," WHICH ALSO PASSED JUDGEMENT ON THE 19 PERSONS EXECUTED THE WEEKEND OF JULY 10.

4. IN A SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENT, ADMASSU HABTE-WOLDE AND WOLDE-MARIAM YIBRA HAVE BEEN STENTENCED TO 19 YEARS FOR "SPREADING FALSE RUMORS" IN KAFFA PROVINCE.

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